

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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JUNE 15, 1836.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. RUGGLES made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Phineas Meigs, praying compensation for a house destroyed by the enemy during the late war, report :*

That it appears from the testimony accompanying the petition, that the house of the petitioner, situate in the town of Madison, in the State of Connecticut, was burned by the enemy on or about the 29th day of May, 1814. The house, at that time, was unoccupied. Patroles of the militia and of volunteer guards occasionally occupied the house, and the enemy's boats were fired at from the beach near the said house. There was also a large spar, like a flag-staff, erected near the house, intended for the use of the fishermen, to enable them to observe the schools of fish, and at the time of its destruction there was straw scattered about the house which had been used by the militia, and the enemy were fired at from the beach the evening before the house was burnt.

No evidence is offered that the building was occupied by the order of any officer or agent of the United States, or even that the militia and volunteers that occasionally occupied the house were ever mustered into the service of the United States.

The committee are therefore of the opinion that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted, and ask to be discharged from the further consideration of the said petition.

[Gales & Seaton, print.]

